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Bedwas & Machen Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER. OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1925.

RISCA.
YENDALL & Co., Ltd., PRINTERS.
1926.



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Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Ward No. 1—MAESYCWMMER ...	Councillor	W. G. GANDERTON.
	„	J. H. HARRIS.
	„	D. T. MEREDITH.
	„	JOHN PHILLIPS.
Ward No. 2—BEDWAS	... Councillor	THOS. MEYRICK.
	„	W. FILER (Vice-Chairman)
	„	DAVID JONES.
	„	W. J. MILSOM.
Ward No. 3—TRETTHOMAS	... Councillor	D. W. EVANS.
	„	T. C. HAMMERTON.
	„	HARRY JONES (Chairman).
	„	ROBERT WEEKS.
Ward No. 4—MACHEN	... Councillor	D. J. DAVIES.
	„	F. H. DAVIES.
	„	G. D. INKIN.
	„	E. B. JAMES.

List of Officers :

Clerk and Solicitor	...	C. DAVIES JONES.
Medical Officer of Health	...	B. OSMOND-BARNARD, M.B., M.S.
Surveyor	...	H. GIBSON, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.MECH.E.
Sanitary Inspector	...	THOMAS JONES, C.R.S.I.
Housing Architect	...	IDRIS LEYSHON.
Finance Clerk	...	T. L. HARRIS.
Rate Collector (Bedwas Parish)	...	WILLIAM JONES.
Rate Collector (Machen Parish)	...	T. J. JONES.
Electrical Engineer	...	T. S. THOMAS, A.M.I.E.E.
Treasurer	...	IDRIS WILLIAMS,
		Barclays Bank, Ltd., Bedwas.

Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report,

For the year ended December 31st, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEDWAS AND MACHEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I am placing before you my Annual Report as well as that of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Wards of the District are four in number. Three Wards are situated in the Parish of Bedwas, viz., 1st, Maesyewmmer Ward ; 2nd, Bedwas Ward ; and 3rd, Trethomas Ward. Machen Ward is in the Parish of Machen Upper.

The Parishes are partly within the watershed of the Rhymney River and partly within the watershed of the Ebbw and its confluent, the Sirhowy. The populous portions of the area are entirely in the Rhymney Valley. This valley opens out and lends itself considerably for building purposes. Underlying practically the whole of the district are the valuable seams of coal, the getting of which and a tinplate works near it in Glamorganshire provide occupation for the greater part of the population. A stone quarry is situated at the lower end of the district, providing work for about 30 men.

The area of the district is 6,519 acres. The population in 1911 was 4,936. The population in 1921 was 8,487, 4,438 males and 4,049 females. It is computed in 1925 to have been 9,372.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 1,721.

RATEABLE VALUE.			ASSESSABLE VALUE.		
Bedwas Parish	...	£37,333	Bedwas Parish	...	£31,551
Machen Parish	...	£14,962	Machen Parish	...	£12,106
Total	...	£52,295	Total	...	£43,657

A Penny Rate would realise £182.

VITAL STATISTICS. .

BIRTHS.—Total, 232 ; Males, 112 ; Females, 120. Of these 5 males and 4 females were illegitimate, making an average of 25.7 per thousand per annum of the populaion.

DEATHS numbered 96. 56 were Males and 40 Females. 20 of these were infants under 1 year, an average of 10.66 per thousand per annum of the population, and 21 less than 1924.

Of the 56 Males—

1	died of Measles
5	„ Whooping Cough.
1	„ Encephalitis Lethargica.
4	„ Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.
2	„ Other Tuberculous Diseases.
5	„ Cancer.
6	„ Heart Disease.
1	„ Arterio Sclerosis.
2	„ Bronchitis.
7	„ Pneumonia.
6	„ Congenital Debility and Malformation
	Premature Birth.
1	„ Suicide.
5	„ Violent Deaths.
10	„ Other Defined Diseases.

Of the 40 Females—

1	died of Influenza.
2	„ Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.
1	„ Other Tuberculous Diseases.
1	„ Cancer.
1	„ Rheumatic Fever.
1	„ Diabetes.
3	„ Cerebral Haemorrhage.
3	„ Heart Disease.
2	„ Arterio Sclerosis.
4	„ Bronchitis.
1	„ Other Respiratory Diseases.
1	„ Appendicitis.
1	„ Disease of Pregnancy.
6	„ Congenital Debility.
1	„ Suicide.
1	„ Violent Death.
10	„ Other Defined Diseases.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population in Mon., 21.5 (8,100 births).
 Death Rate per 1,000 of the population in Mon., 10.6 (3,980 deaths).
 Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000, 83.8 (679 deaths under 1 year of age).

The excess of births over deaths was 136.

The causes of death of the 20 Infants were as follows :—

12 died of Congenital Debility.

1	„	Tuberculous Disease.
1	„	Convulsions.
1	„	Cellulitis.
1	„	Pneumonia.
1	„	Measles.
1	„	Whooping Cough.
2	„	Convulsions.
1	„	Bronchitis.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no Hospitals subsidised by the Local Authority, and Tuberculosis cases are sent by the Tuberculosis Officer to the different Sanatoria in Wales when suitable.

Infectious cases are sent to Alltyn Isolation Hospital when room can be provided for them. This Hospital is maintained by Newport Borough.

There are 2 small Hospitals for Small Pox cases maintained by the Monmouthshire County Council. The Hospitals available for the area are Royal Infirmary, Cardiff; Royal Gwent, Newport; The Beeches, Cacerphilly. Aberbargoed Hospital for the men living in the area and working in Bargoed and surrounding district.

There are no Institutions providing for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres—Mon. County Council—one in Maesycwmmmer, one in Trethomas.

Ambulance facilities.—The collieries have their own ambulances and the Council have decided to have their own for use in 1926.

The Tuberculous cases are sent to the Tubercular official who visits the centres at Maesycwmmmer and Trethomas once very month.

Our Venereal centre is at Newport Royal Gwent Hospital, supplied by the Mon. County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

By Exchequer Grants—

1. The Medical Officer of Health (part time).
2. The Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General—none, except in Machen where there is a nurse paid by voluntary subscriptions.

(b) For Infectious Diseases—none.

(c) Measles, etc.—none.

MIDWIVES.

Five Midwives are practising in the area, none of whom are subsidised by the Local Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS.

I have included the Tuberculosis return for the year ending 31st December, 1925, as well as the number of other notifiable diseases, and the Ward distribution of the same.

Tuberculosis return for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

Age Period.	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 up	
Pulmonary —													
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	7	2	3	—	
Non-Pulmonary—													
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Males ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	7	11	3	3	—	28

Other Notifiable Diseases.

Diphtheria ...	—	1	—	—	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	—	14
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	—	5	10	4	—	2	—	—	—	24
Pneumonia ...	4	5	6	7	3	7	—	3	—	2	1	—	38
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	4
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis													
Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	5	6	9	7	9	23	6	4	5	4	5	—	111

Ward Distribution.

Bedwas.	12 Pneumonia, 4 Scarlet Fever, 3 Diphtheria, 8 Tuberculosis, 1 Erysipelas	...	...	28
Trethomas.	18 Pneumonia, 6 Scarlet Fever, 2 Diphtheria, 14 Tuberculosis 1, Erysipelas, 2 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	44
Machen.	4 Pneumonia, 13, Scarlet Fever, 8 Diphtheria, 2 Tuberculosis, 2 Erysipelas	...	...	29
Maesycwmmmer.	4 Pneumonia, 1 Scarlet Fever, 4 Tuberculosis, 1 Diphtheria	...	...	10
Total				111

Antitoxin is provided free of charge to the Medical men practising in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The whole of the area is now supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, part of Machen Ward being supplied from the Cwm Vedw Brooklet and the White Hart Reservoir. The Taf Fechan Reservoir is not yet completed and the supply in summer is rather intermittent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Rhymney River and its confluents are positively polluted. We hope that at the end of the year (1926) all the houses in the district will be connected to the sewer that has lately been completed. You will note in the Inspector's report the number of pail closets converted into water closets.

SCAVENGING, NIGHT SOIL, ETC.

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour in the Trethomas and Maesycwmmmer Wards and in the Bedwas and Machen Wards by contract. House refuse four days a week and night soil twice a week. We trust that within the next year the collection of night soil will be abolished.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 6 Slaughter-houses in your district, one having been established during the year, much against the Inspector's and my own wish. The time has now arrived when a public abbatoir should be considered.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

As much time as possible is given to the food supply of your district. During the past year the time of your Inspector has been taken up with the conversion of pail closets and drainage.

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES.

Infected houses are disinfected when cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital or declared clear by the Medical attendant. Disinfectants are given free to persons requiring them.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 5 Bakehouses which are regularly visited.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district were visited and found to be in good sanitary condition.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. OSMOND-BARNARD, M.B., M.S.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1925.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEDWAS AND MACHEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The following is a summary of work done :—

Routine Inspections	...	...	...	...	1750
Nuisances abated without notice	...	...	...	...	960
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	10
Statutory Notices served by Authority	...	...	...	...	12
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	6
Letters written	...	...	...	...	135
Circulars	...	...	...	...	100
Cowsheds improved	...	...	...	...	3
Pail Closets converted into Water closets	...	...	...	...	320
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	58
House drainage improved	...	...	...	...	76
Shutes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
New Pails provided	...	...	...	...	20
Paved Areas repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Number of Houses erected during the year	...	...	...	...	24
Infectious cases notified	...	...	...	...	111
Houses disinfected or disinfectants given	...	...	...	...	80
Removals to Hospital	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD INSPECTION.

As much attention was as possible given to the Food supply of your district. Visits are made at irregular periods. The following unfit food was destroyed : 2,347 lbs. of Meat, 70 tins of Fruit, 124 tins of Tomatoes, 69 tins of Meat, 47 tins of Fish, 42 tins of Milk.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS JONES.

